

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/344,190	KUMP, KENNETH SCOTT
	Examiner Duy M. Dang	Art Unit 2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 11/6/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-7,9-12,15-25 and 27.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Petition filed on November 06, 2006 was granted on December 01, 2006. Therefore, the Abandonment mailed on July 03, 2006 has been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's amendment filed on November 06, 2006 has been entered and made of record.
3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 19-22 of the reply filed on November 06, 2006, with respect to the combination of the cited prior art Ergun et al. and Friemel applied to the rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 15-25, and 27 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of these claims has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 15-25, and 27 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Reference is to paragraph 3 above as to the reasons for allowance of claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 15-25, and 27. As pointed out by Applicant, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed features that of 'generating a profile for each of said at least two bands of predetermined width; determining whether the digital medical image within said at least two bands includes at least one non-clinical regions based on said profile; and masking said at least one non-clinical region based on at least one of gray scale maximum and minimum values for the at least one non-clinical region, said at least one non-clinical region comprising one of raw radiation region and a collimated region" as recited in claim 1; and "dynamic range module determining a dynamic range of a clinical region of the digital medical image based on the clinical region, said dynamic range module determining a dynamic range of said clinical region within said at least

two bands and computing dynamic range characteristics based on said dynamic range, said dynamic range characteristics capable of adjusting said digital medical image" as recited in claim 11. Likewise, dependent claims 3-7, 9-10, 12, 15-25, and 27 are also allowed for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duy M. Dang whose telephone number is 571-272-7389. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6:00AM to 2:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew C. Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

dmd
1/07


DUY M. DANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER